

Flight Jacket

Vol. 2, No. 15

April 14, 2000

Surf the Flight Jacket Online!
www.miramar.usmc.mil

Proudly Serving the Marine Corps

Air Station Miramar Community

News

13th MEU crew gets taste of close-quarter living

Page 2

Safety brief – snake bites are no joke

Page 2

STD's, cost of unsafe sex

Page 4

Features

'Black Sheep' creep through the night

Page 6

Fun in the sun: Carnival day at Miramar

Page 7

Health Beat

Congress pushes better military health benefits

Page 8

Marine Corps reacts to downed Osprey

by Sgt. Steven A. Davis

PAO, MCAS Miramar

The national ensign remained at half-staff today as Marine Corps officials continue to investigate Saturday's MV-22 "Osprey" accident that took place near Marana, Ariz.

An aircraft mishap investigation team, headed by Col. Dennis Bartels, was dispatched to the site from Headquarters Marine Corps earlier this week to determine the cause of the accident.

All 19 Marines aboard the Osprey, which combines the vertical flight capabilities of a helicopter with fixed-wing forward flight capabilities, perished in the accident. Southern California Marines comprised the bulk of the crew, including 14 infantrymen stationed at Camp Pendleton and a field radio operator assigned to Marine Air Control Group 38 aboard the air station.

Earlier this week, Gen. James L. Jones,

See **Osprey**,
Page 9

MV-22

Aircraft crashes during training mission

An MV-22 Osprey crashed Saturday evening near Marana, Ariz., killing 19 Marines.



MV-22 Osprey at a glance

The Osprey's dual-rotors swivel to convert it from a chopper to an airplane. It is the first aircraft designed from the ground up to meet the needs of all four U.S. armed services. The aircraft can transport Marine Corps assault troops and cargo using its medium lift and vertical takeoff and landing capabilities. It meets U.S. Navy requirements for combat search and rescue, fleet logistics support, and special warfare support. Features include:



cross-coupled transmissions so either engine can power the rotors if one engine fails, and the rotors can fold and wings rotate so the aircraft can be stored aboard an aircraft carrier.

Cargo Capacity: 24 combat troops or 15,000 pounds of cargo.

Pilots: 2

Top speed: 394 mph

Range: 495 miles

Maximum altitude: 25,000 feet

Maneuvering the craft

Level flight: Rotors act like propellers and provide thrust, wings provide lift.



Transition mode: Rotors swing to accelerate for flight or decelerate for landing.



Hovering and landing: Rotors provide lift.



-courtesy of Boeing

'A dynamic personality, love for life'

by Sgt. Steven A. Davis

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Saturday's MV-22 "Osprey" accident near Marana, Ariz., has had far-reaching affects throughout the Marine Corps. For one unit aboard the air station, the initial shock struck a little closer to home.

Among the 19 crewmembers aboard the doomed MV-22 "Osprey" was Cpl. Eric J. Martinez, a field radio operator assigned to Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38.

Questions continue to circulate throughout the national media regarding the aircraft's safety and cost-benefit ratio. The more pressing concern among MWCS-38's Marines, however, focuses on Martinez' family and the lessons learned from his untimely death.

"Sometimes we mistakenly lull ourselves into thinking we won't have casualties," reflected Lt. Col. Paul K. Hilton, the squadron's commanding officer. "This was a shock back to reality — a sad reminder that we do a dangerous job."

Martinez was serving as the

See **Martinez**, Page 9

Miramar motorcycle safety program wins first award

photo and story by Sgt. Kimberly L. Wilkie

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, commander, MCABWA recently received the California Motorcyclist Safety Program's award for, "Outstanding Military Program of the Year."

The award was presented to him by Lt. Col. Jon Ray, Miramar's Director of Safety. The Miramar program was in competition with every military installation in California.

"I find that fairly remarkable since the program is only eight months old," said Ray. Miramar's approach to the motorcycle safety program may be part of the reason for the air station's success.

Miramar began by hiring a full-time civilian instructor, Mr. Daniel Jaquez. Then addressed one of the real issues of motorcycle safety — the fact that more than 70 percent of untrained new riders are involved in accidents within six months. The idea of "training potential riders before they buy" was decided to be the best course of action.

The program offers motorcycles and helmets and lessons to Marines interested. The classes are given every third Wednesday of the month. "We'll train them. All they need to do is come prepared: wear a long sleeve shirt, pants, boots and a 'proper

state of mind,'" said Ray. "And be ready to have fun!"

Ray said the program is a great opportunity for beginners because, "they can get educated about what kind of bike and equipment to buy now, rather than 'discover' later." In addition to training new riders, Jaquez also offers help with minor maintenance and some sound advice on how to actually purchase a motorcycle.

The program also doubled the availability of the basic rider courses, with a wait time of less than a month.

The program saves military members up to \$190 and upon completion, they are certified to complete the state motorcycle licensing process without having to ride the Department of Motor Vehicles "pop cycle." The program is also actively starting and supporting motorcycle clubs at the squadron level. Bowdon said he was very pleased with the great progress of this fledgling program.



Team Marine needs a few good runners

by Jennifer M. Robinson

MCB Quantico, Va.

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — The Marine Corps Marathon is looking for the five fastest male and three fastest female Marines to join Team Marine and compete in the Plymouth Hoe Promenade Half Marathon on Sunday, May 28, 2000.

The Plymouth Hoe Promenade Half Marathon is the battlefield for this year's "Warriors of the Sea Cup." In 1995 the Royal Navy/Marine Corps established this running event to continue the friendly rivalry that began with the Marine Corps Marathon's Challenge Cup Competition.

The Challenge Cup competition dates back to 1977, after Royal Navy Commander John McDonough ran the 2nd Marine Corps Marathon. After enjoying the road race so much, and beating several of his U.S. Ma-

See **Runners**, Page 11

Flight Jacket



Maj. Gen. M.P. DeLong
Commanding General
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon
Commander, Marine Corps
Air Bases Western Area

Maj. Stephen H. Kay
Director, Public Affairs Office

Capt. Kimberley J. Miller
Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office

1st Lt. Edward J. Morales
Managing Editor

Staff Sgt. J. Kinchen-Schneider
Internal Information Chief

Cpl. David Hercher
Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig
Editors

Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen
Staff Sgt. Jason N. Mayer
Sgt. Jackie Poucher
Sgt. Kimberly L. Wilkie
Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj
Combat Correspondents



The *Flight Jacket* is published every Friday at no cost to the government by Military Guides, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps under an exclusively written contract with the U.S. Marine Corps.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for the military services, contents of the *Flight Jacket* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the U.S. Marine Corps. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Military Guides, of the products or service advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the *Flight Jacket*, Public Affairs Office, MCAS Miramar, (858) 577-6021. All queries concerning business matters, display ads, or paid classified ads should be directed to Military Guides, 9580 Black Mountain Road Suite C, San Diego, California 92126, or (858) 547-7343.



photo by Sgt. Kimberly L. Wilkie

The *USS Tarawa* returned to San Diego recently after a 10-day trip to San Francisco. After docking, the national ensign is raised at the bow of the ship. The trip up the coast gave many Marines and sailors an opportunity to prepare for the 13th Marine Expeditionary Units upcoming six month Western Pacific deployment. For many Marines, it was their first opportunity to get a taste of living on a ship. The experience gained may prove to be invaluable in knowing what to pack for the upcoming deployment and what to expect in daily living conditions.

Marines get a taste of ship life

by Sgt. Kimberly L. Wilkie

PAO, MCAS Miramar

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens, in his novel, "A Tale of Two Cities."

Life on ship can in many ways be summed up by this short quote.

A recent 10-day trip aboard the *USS Tarawa*, *USS Anchorage* and the *USS Duluth* gave Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, MCAS Yuma, Ariz. and MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., an opportunity to taste a bit of sea life before the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's upcoming Western Pacific deployment.

For many of the Marines, it was the first time they have felt the excitement of leaving port, traveling slowly underneath the great Coronado Bridge and pulling out to sea.

It was also the first time many of them had ever attempted to navigate through a labyrinth of decks and stairwells.

"It's easy," said one helpful sailor when asked for directions. "All you need to know is how to find where you eat, where you sleep and where you work."

For those who steadily became aware of the incessant rocking of the ship, two more locations became mandatory. The ship's convenience store for the manna of the ill...saltine crackers and the medical office for Dramamine.

Sleeping on ship, though cramped and small with temperatures hovering just above something akin to meat locker temperature, can be very peaceful. The linens are clean, crisp and smell faintly of bleach. The same rocking that may cause some so much discomfort gives most the feeling of being rocked like a baby in a cradle.

The rocking offered an amusement like nothing found on land. Watching "landlubber" Marines learn the art of walking on the non-stationary decks with an off kilter gravity base, offered many "salty" sailors and Marines more than a few laughs. After a time, the lack of privacy becomes less important as a sense of camaraderie unfolds. Sharing frustrations about the kitchen-sink shower fixtures that require pressing a button to wash, lamenting the long lines everywhere,

See **Shiplife**, Page 11

Safety Brief

Along with Spring comes rattlesnakes

by Linda Jackowski

Safety Department, MCAS Miramar

As the spring season arrives so do our neighbors, the rattlesnake family. Don't be complacent because you're on the inhabited side of Miramar and in a building surrounded by a parking lot. A baby rattlesnake recently visited a garage in one of our family housing units. Rattlesnakes are more frequently seen on station in the more "natural areas" i.e. East Miramar or the golf course, but do frequently visit in and around station housing, warehouses, parking lots and buildings, especially when adjacent to natural areas and open fields. Keep a watchful eye and parents please discuss with your children the dangers a rattlesnake can pose.

The best way to survive a snakebite is to not get bitten! The following will help you avoid the snakebite:

- *Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Don't blindly wander through grasses, woods, weeds, and bushes. Keep a watchful eye when entering outside storage areas, conex boxes, sheds, utility closets, stacks of stored materials, crawl spaces underneath trailers, etc. Expect the unexpected!*

- *Avoid preferred snake habitats like brush piles, piles of debris, little used buildings, and watery areas. Eliminate shelter for the snakes. Keep grasses and weeds trimmed. Clean up accumulated debris that could serve as hiding places near buildings. Control rodent populations in your area. Small rodents comprise much of the snake's diet.*

- *Wear leather shoes or boots at least ankle high when walking into suspected snake habitat.*

- *Never sit or climb or step over obstacles anywhere without first looking carefully prior to taking a move. Never*

place hands and feet where they can't be seen clearly.

- *Observation is critical to avoidance. Learn to check around with a sweeping glance for anything that seems out of place.*

- *Near water of any kind, be aware that many snake species "hang out" there and will likely be hidden from view.*

- *Try NOT to move along stealthily. Rattlesnakes belong to the pit viper family, so named because all pit vipers possess pits, or lateral heat sensory organs, between the eye and nostril on each side of the head. The heat sensory devices warn them of your presence - let these devices work freely with movements, etc. and thus not make the snake think it may be the target of a predator when it would need to become aggressive.*

- *Mature rattlesnakes let their presence be known by vigorously shaking their tail. Baby rattlesnakes however, have not developed rattles and pose and additional threat through silence. Baby rattlers may look innocent or, to the untrained eye, appear similar to one of our common and harmless non-venomous snakes, but can be more dangerous than an adult.*

- *When a snake is spotted, leave it alone!!!! If a snake will not vacate the area you are in, call Bob Taylor, the Station Wildlife Biologist, at 76498, or the Public Works Department Trouble Desk at 71609/1616, for removal.*

- *A permit and/or license is required to kill a reptile, including snakes, on station. If a snake is legally taken, you must have a scientific collection permit to remove the specimen from federal property and move it onto state land.*

- *Be in tune with your environment. Most animals, including snakes, try to avoid human contact. Practice skills that make you and your children more aware of what is happening and what critical conditions are present.*

What to do in case of a snakebite:



Identification: Rattlesnake bites are usually identified by one or two fang puncture wounds. (The bite of a harmless snake leaves a surface scratch.)

Symptoms: A victim will feel immediate pain and rapid swelling of the area. The skin takes on a dark purple discoloration and the victim may also experience nausea and faintness.

Emergency Treatment:

- *Immobilize the patient, keeping them still and comfortable.*

- *Send for help.*

- *Apply a tourniquet lightly (do not cut off blood circulation to the area) above the bite to close off venous circulation.*

- *You may rinse the area with water, but do not use ice.*

- *Keep the bitten area below the level of the heart.*

- *Do not cut into the bite.*

- *Get to a hospital as soon as possible for anti-venom serum. **Immediate medical attention is of utmost importance.***

- *On MCAS Miramar any person bitten by a rattlesnake should report to the Branch Medical Clinic **without delay**. If there is no transportation available, have a companion call 9911 for an ambulance. Should the bitten person be alone, walk (DO NOT RUN) to the nearest populated area and telephone for assistance.*

- *If bitten off station, follow the on-site emergency treatment procedures and report to the nearest hospital emergency room.*

Be careful out there! Lookout for each other and the snakes.

- Sgt. Jose Alvarez, 28, a machinegunner assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Uvalde, Texas.
- Maj. John A. Brow, 39, a pilot assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron 1, of California, Md.
- Pfc. Gabriel C. Clevenger, 21, a machinegunner assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Picher, Okla.
- Pfc. Alfred Corona, 23, a machinegunner assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of San Antonio.
- Lance Cpl. Jason T. Duke, 28, a machinegunner assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Sacramento, Calif.
- Lance Cpl. Jesus Gonzalez Sanchez, 27, an assaultman assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of San Diego.
- Maj. Brooks S. Gruber, 34, pilot assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron 1, of Jacksonville, N.C.
- Lance Cpl. Seth G. Jones, 18, an assaultman assigned to 3d



In memoriam

Marine Corps officials are expressing condolences to the families of 19 Marines killed approximately 8 p.m. Saturday when an MV-22 Osprey crashed near Marana, Ariz. Killed in the accident were:

- Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Bend, Ore.*
- 2nd Lt. Clayton J. Kennedy, 24, a platoon commander assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Clifton Bosque, Texas.
- Cpl. Kelly S. Keith, 22, aircraft crew chief assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron 1, of Florence, S.C.
- Cpl. Eric J. Martinez, 21, a field radio operator assigned to Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, Marine Air Control Group 38, of Williams, Ariz.
- Lance Cpl. Jorge A. Morin, 21, an assaultman assigned to 3d Battalion,

- 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of McAllen, Texas.*
- Cpl. Adam C. Neely, 22, a rifleman assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Winthrop, Wash.
- Staff Sgt. William B. Nelson, 30, a satellite communications specialist with Marine Air Control Group-38, of Richmond, Va.
- Pfc. Kenneth O. Paddio, 23, a rifleman assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Houston.
- Pfc. George P. Santos, 19, a rifleman assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Long Beach, Calif.
- Pfc. Keoki P. Santos, 24, a rifleman assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Grand Ronde, Ore.
- Cpl. Can Soler, 21, a rifleman assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Palm City, Fla.
- Pvt. Adam L. Tatro, 19, a rifleman assigned to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of Brownwood, Texas.

“The entire Marine Corps family grieves for the Marines we’ve lost in this tragedy and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. We have sent an expert team to Arizona to quickly investigate the circumstances surrounding this mishap.”

- Gen. James Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps

Brief emphasizes dangers of STDs

by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Responsibility is the key to leading a life free of sexually transmitted diseases.

In order to help make people aware of the dangers that go along with sexual intercourse, April has been deemed National Sexually Transmitted Disease/Human Immunodeficiency Virus Awareness month. Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit division recently hosted an STD/HIV brief to help educate the people of Miramar on some of the common and the not so common STDs.

One of the many misconceptions people have about STDs and HIV is that they'll be able to recognize someone who is infected. Not everyone carrying a disease looks sick or even feels sick. Many people who carry a sexually transmitted disease don't even know they're infected.

Another popular misconception is that condoms are 100 percent protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

"One of the big questions I get in my clinic, is that people come in and they say 'Doctor I have no idea how this happened?'" They say, 'well I wore a condom. I always wear a condom. I don't understand how this happened to me.' Well, there is a big misconception about contracting STDs.

"Many people take out the factor of oral sex. They don't realize by giving or receiving oral sex, mainly by giving, you can contract an STD. It's not uncommon for people to have chlymadia or gonorrhea of the throat. I've seen people with herpes on their face and I've seen people with genital warts on their lips and tongue. So just because you don't have intercourse with someone, doesn't mean you've protected yourself from a sexually transmitted disease," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Blakesley, hospital corpsman here at the Branch Medical Clinic.

Some of the more common STDs are genital herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhea, genital warts, syphilis, hepatitis B and HIV.

Genital herpes can be identified by itching in the genital region and painful sores can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Headache and fever may also accompany this disease. The outbreaks of genital

herpes are usually recurrent. The infection can spread through sexual contact and it can also spread to other parts of the body. There are treatments to minimize the size of the outbreaks, however there is no cure.

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are very much alike. The symptoms are a yellowish pus-like discharge, and pain or a burning sensation when urinating. Some victims may not experience any symptoms at all. If these diseases are not treated and cured in time, they may cause pelvic inflammatory disease or scarred fallopian tubes, which can lead to ectopic(tubal) pregnancy or infertility. Prescribed antibiotics for a recommended amount of time will cure these diseases.

Genital warts are clusters of pink or red swellings that may resemble cauliflower. They may cause itching, burning, tenderness, or may be totally painless. These warts can reappear after treatment; moreover, during pregnancy the infant may become infected. Physicians treat warts by removing them with an acid application, freezing and/or burning methods.

Syphilis infects people in three stages. During stage one a person may get a painless sore at the infection site and swollen glands. At stage two, a rash will grow often on the palms of hands and the soles of feet. The rash may last several months. The third stage, a person may begin to feel ill, due to the heart, nervous system, and/or other internal organs being affected by the disease. If not treated with antibiotics it may cause heart disease, a stroke, blindness, paralysis and even death.

The signs of hepatitis B are much like those of the flu. A person infected may experience tiredness, loss of appetite, weight loss, aching joints or muscles, stomach pain nausea and diarrhea. Most people recover from hepatitis B in about six months with no treatment, but some people find themselves infected with a chronic case of the disease. Those with chronic hepatitis B may have no signs for years, or just feel slightly ill or tired. Eventually they may suffer from liver cancer, cirrhosis, or death from complications. There is a vaccine to help prevent the disease, but no treatment for those already infected.

Possibly the most deadly STD known to

Sergeant Major's Corner

by Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA Sergeant Major

• All Marines message 020/00 mandates that the week of 9-15 April is National Volunteer Week. General Jones states, "volunteers are key members of the Marine Corps family, who by their involvement, diversify and expand the skills we can offer to our community."

"Through the efforts of volunteers, the Marine Corps has been able to spend every dollar on programs that benefit our Marines and their families, rather than on for those who manage the programs."

Volunteering should not just be something we do once a year. It should be done as often as possible. There are many activities aboard the air station that would appreciate the amount of time that you can offer. Give MCCS a call at 577-4119 and ask how you too can volunteer.

• Motorcycle safety again is on the skyline. Recently we've lost two Marines to motorcycle accidents while on liberty. One was wearing a helmet, but speeding. The other was not wearing a helmet and was hit by a drunk driver.

We're all aware of the tragic loss of our fellow comrades in Arizona. They were training to fight and win wars. Our job is dangerous enough without compounding it by not adhering to the rules and regulations.

We lose way too many Marines to stupidity while on liberty!

• As a reminder, the Armed Services YMCA Enlisted Ball is next month. See your Sergeant Major about tickets.

The guest speaker is Miramar's good friend, Mr. Louis Bershad. Not only is he a good friend to Miramar, he is a good friend to our Marine Corps, and former Marine.

• During the Marine Air Board meeting held last week, Miramar hosted 25 visiting general officers for three days. Once again that Miramar pride everyone displayed was infectious and the epitome of teamwork.

The Assistant Commandant will be here next week. Let's all show him the caliber of professionalism that is ingrained in the Marines and Sailors of Miramar.

• If you haven't heard those who have the AAFES DPP card can now use them in the Exchange. The use of DPP for uniforms is another subject. Because there is no interest on uniform purchases, the accounting trail is a bigger nightmare than originally thought. Combining AAFES and NEX was a walk in the park compared to fixing this problem.

However, rest assured that everybody

See **Sgt. Maj. Corner**, Page 11

man is HIV/AIDS. A person can be a carrier of HIV and never get sick or feel any different than usual, but that person can spread the disease. Contrary to popular belief, HIV is not spread through casual contact. The only way to contract the disease is by participating in sexual intercourse, sharing a needle, receiving infected blood in a transfusion or being born from a mother who is infected. A person infected may show signs of infection that resemble mononucleosis, eventually developing into various infections. Within three to 10 years pneumonia, herpes, and fungal infections along with cancers develop ulti-

mately causing inevitable death. There is no cure for this disease. There are treatments that may improve the survival time for victims, according to a newsletter from patient education service of Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories.

During the STD/HIV brief held at the station theatre here recently, Michelle Angel, a woman who has been living with HIV for 14 years, had some words of experience for the audience.

"Here in the U.S., we don't have an excuse, other than ignorance and denial. We have more education than any place else in this world that can prevent anyone of us from having AIDS ever again. There are close to a million people in California alone infected, and that's just the people we know about. At the point I found out I had the virus I was infected for close to five years and never knew it. I had everything I had planned my life to be. I was a mom to be. I was a wife. I don't have any of those things now," Angel said.

There are many ways to prevent contracting a STD. The only way a person can be totally safe from being infected is through abstinence. The safest way, if you are having sex, is to make sure each partner is free of infection, they have never injected drugs and they have never had sex with anyone else. Don't take their word for it. Go as a couple to the nearest clinic and get yourselves tested.

Condoms are not fool proof, but they are one of the best ways to try and prevent contracting a STD.

There are no STD classes here on Miramar, but interested parties can contact Balboa

TMO Bi-weekly Info

The Traffic Management Office will publish answers to the most frequently asked questions on a bi-weekly basis. Due to the upcoming summer months when many service members are starting to make transitions to other bases within continental United States and overseas, we hope that most of the questions and answers help you in your future move, travel or temporary additional duty trips.

Passenger Travel Office

Question: Can travelers purchase tickets for official travel from non-contracted travel agencies?

Answer: No, except in unusual circumstances when there is no alternative. If a non-contracted Commercial Travel Office is used the traveler must demonstrate the use of a contract CTO was attempted. Travelers are required to use Commercial Travel Offices under contract with the government. Marine Corps CTO contracts contain exclusivity clauses. This clause provides the contracted CTO exclusive selling rights for all commercial travel arrangements in support of official travel.

Personal Property Office

Question: How much notice should I give TMO in order to pack and ship my household goods to my new duty station?

Answer: You can begin to plan your packing date as soon as you receive your Permanent Change of Station orders. During the summer months it is requested that TMO be given 45 - 60 days notice. For more information on Traffic Management Office matters please go to our web site at: www.miramar.usmc.mil/tmo1/index.htm.

Gonzales Hall serves special meal

A special meal will be served in observance of the Easter, April 23, at Gonzales Hall from 3 to 5 p.m. (the new dining facility). Family members and civilian employees are welcomed. The meal will cost \$4.10 for people without meal cards.

For family members of corporals and below, the meal will cost \$3.35. For more information, call Master Sgt. Sprawling at 577-1380. The menu is as follows:

- Steamship Round of Beef
- Mashed Potatoes
- Broccoli
- Scalloped Corn
- Make your own salad
- Cottage Cheese with peaches
- Jellied Perfection Salad
- Country Style Tomato Salad
- French Creme Frosting
- Whipped Topping
- Dinner Rolls
- Baked Ham
- Glazed Sweet Potatoes
- Cheese Sauce
- Colored Easter Eggs
- German Coleslaw
- Tomato Juice Cocktail
- Spice Cake
- Chocolate Creme Pie
- Oatmeal Cookies

Teen Drug Prevention Forum educates

A pre-teen and teen drug abuse forum is being held Wednesday from 6 -8 p.m. at the base Teen Center. The forum will focus on new drugs, symptoms of drug use, cost, availability, what they look like and more. The night will feature skits and speakers followed with pizza and soda. For more information, call 577-7285.

Curbside recycling available

Curbside recyclables will be picked up every Tuesday at 7 a.m. in base housing. All bins must be on the curb to be picked up.

Base Museum opens

The Flying Leatherneck Museum will have a “Grand Opening” May 25 from 3–6 p.m. at the base Officer’s Club near the static display area. There will be several distinguished guests, food and entertainment. Radio host Roger Hedgecock will broadcast live.

Recovery Games volunteers sought

The City of San Diego Park and Recreation’s Disabled Services Program is looking for volunteers for the final day of the upcoming Recovery Games, May 13. This weeklong annual event is a series of physical activities for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. For more information, call (619) 525-8247 or (619) 525-8249.

Learn about Academy Life

Academy Night is Tuesday at the Bayside Conference Center in Building 623 at 6:30 p.m. in the former Naval Training Center. United States Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps representatives will be present. For more information, call (619) 291-1430.

Mentors sought

The Program for Academic and Language Services is a small non-profit organization which needs adults to coordinate their exchange program. Coordinators will screen local host families for the incoming students and act as a liaison between the program and schools. For more information, call 1-888-

2000 Navy/Marine Corps Relief Fund Drive Drawing

- **Grand Prize:** Hawaii Trip for two, includes airfare, hotel and rental car
- **Second Prize:** Plane tickets for two anywhere in the continental United States
- **Third Prize:** Wash/ Dryer combination
- **Consolation prizes:** DVD player and other electronic equipment

The drawing will take place Wednesday in the COMCABWEST Headquarters auditorium, Building 8630 at 10 a.m. *Winners are not required to be present to claim their prize.*

Impounded vehicles

The military police are currently holding several unclaimed vehicles in the PMO impound lot. These vehicles have been impounded for various violations and have been retained for the required period of time. If you are the registered owner of one of the below listed impounded vehicles, contact the Impound NCO at 577-1461 or 577-1462. If left unclaimed, the vehicles will be disposed of in accordance with current directives.

Impounded Vehicles	License Plate	Location where impounded
1994 Red Honda CRX	KA: Temp	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 5113
1991 Blue Dodge Stealth	CA:3PBV437	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 5302
1976 Primer Chevorlet Nova	CA:014RUJ	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 8697
1985 Red Ford Escort	CA:2UFX981	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 8698
1967 Black Datsun	OR:VAX909	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 5532
1975 White/Red/Blue Suzuki motorcycle	CA:7X8561	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 5416
Unknown Black Kawasaki motorcycle	none	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 5711
Unknown Red Honda dirtbike	none	Parking lot adjacent to Barracks 8698
Unknown Yellow Yamaha dirtbike	none	Parking lot adjacent to Billeting
Unknown White, Unknown make Jet ski	none	Parking lot adjacent to Billeting

7257 or e-mail exchange@net-port.com.

New USO open

The USO center recently opened at Lindbergh Field, San Diego, making it the nation’s largest center. The center offers numerous assistance programs and services. It is open to all service members and their families. For more information, call 686-6400.

Instructors needed

Various high schools throughout the Midwest are in need of Senior Marine Instructors and Marine Instructors for their Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs. Any Marine officer or staff noncommissioned officer preparing to retire this year may apply. The following high schools are

hiring: Davenport High School, Davenport, Iowa; Lincoln High School, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Nobile Street Charter, Chicago; Forsyth High School, Muncie, Ind., and Mountain Grove High School, Mountain Grove, Miss. For more information, e-mail Cpl. Prater at Praterap@9mcd.usmc.mil.

MCH volunteers needed

MCAS Miramar is holding its first ever Multi-cultural Heritage celebration and is seeking volunteers to share part of their culture. They need people to display materials from the following cultures: women’s history, Hispanic, Native American and African. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Phillips, MCABWA Equal Opportunity advisor at 577-1269.



Out of the Night,

Black Sheep take to flight off USS Tarawa

by Sgt. Kimberly L. Wilkie

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Attack Squadron 214's Harrier pilots have earned their air of confidence. Their training involves a myriad of details, intersecting unknowns, and leaving a very small margin for error. There are no "training" Harriers. The aircraft holds one pilot. These guys have to get it right, all by themselves, all of the time.

In June 1989, the Black Sheep squadron became the first Harrier squadron in the Marine Corps. They were also the first night attack squadron in the Corps. But that claim to fame is hard earned and must be continually proven. From the start, the Harriers pilots have used night vision goggles during their night flights, but they were not allowed to use the NVG's to assist carrier landings.

However, the pilots have recently been given the go ahead for landing on the carriers using the NVG's. Over the years as pilot experience and NVG technology evolved, the pilots' standard operating procedures have changed. According to Capt. Jeff B. Scott, power line officer-in-charge and Harrier pilot, the new SOP places a higher emphasis on using NVG's and condenses the entire way the pilots approach the aircraft carrier to land, especially at night.

Before the pilots actually attempt night landings, they make full use of the Harrier simulator. "It's an excellent tool for building up. We use it to practice day and night," said 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit detachment officer-in-charge and

Harrier pilot Maj. Jim G. Durdall.

Simulator training is no substitute for the real thing. The pilots begin getting their first real feel of the deck of a ship by practicing on the AUXII, a mock amphibious assault ship complete with tower, located in the remote desert about 10 miles from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

Recently, after weeks of practicing night landings on the AUXII, the Black Sheep Squadron took it to the water. VMA-214 performed both day and night carrier qualifications on the rolling and tossing landing surface of the *USS Tarawa*, en route to the San Francisco Bay.

"During daylight hours visual cues and landing aids assist the approach [of the Harrier] to your spot, relative to the world, on a precise place on a ship that's moving," explained Durdall.

A tall order indeed, but the complexity factors goes vertical when the lights go out. "The daytime stuff is fairly reasonable, but the nighttime is fairly challenging," said Durdall. "At night, there are no peripheral vision cues. We're looking at [very dim] lights attached to the tower, not on the deck. It's not always easy to tell, if when we are diving, it's to where we should be or due to ship movement," said Durdall. "Assisted night landing (with NVG's) are somewhere in difficulty between day and unassisted," said Durdall.

According to Scott, the lighting cues on the ship itself are approximately the same when landing with NVG's (assisted) or without any goggles (unassisted.) Scott said that he and other pilots he works with prefer utilizing the NVG's, "because normal night vision is about 20/400, with

the goggles it is between 20/25 and 20/40."

According to Intelligent Products Company, night vision goggles take the small amount of light that's in the surrounding area (such as moonlight or starlight), and converts the light energy (scientists call it photons,) into electrical energy (electrons.)

These electrons pass through a thin disk about the size of a quarter that contain more than 6 million channels. As the electrons go through the channels, the electrons are multiplied then are accelerated onto a phosphor screen that converts the electrons back into photons and lets you see a bright nighttime view even under extremely dark conditions.

The normal outer ranges of peripheral vision are not available beyond the scope of the screen. You do not look "through" NVG's, you look at the amplified electronic image on a phosphor screen, hence, no peripheral visual cues when landing. Once mastery of the skill is demonstrated by completing 10 graded night landings, the pilots then

become carrier-qualified.

After qualifying, pilots then maintain their hard won carrier landing qualifications by continuing to train and perform the difficult landings.



courtesy of Janq Designs

(Top) The night vision phosphor screen is purposefully colored green because the human eye can differentiate more shades of green than any other phosphor color. The new standard operating procedure for the pilots allows them to utilize the NVG technology, not only when performing their missions over water and land, but also when making their descent out of night skies onto the black surface of the carriers deck. While the goggles do not offer a great deal of peripheral visual clues, they do make the otherwise dark landing spot fairly illuminated. (Above) The ANVS-9 night vision goggles give VMA-214's Harrier pilots a decisive edge when landing on carriers at night. Pilots only have lights attached to the tower of the ship for markers when making the decent onto the deck. The goggles affix to their helmets and use converted surrounding light. The goggles themselves do not have any internal light sources.



New Millenium
New Telephone lines to MCI

- Check your enrollments
- Order duplicate exams
- Get a completion certificate



1-800-MCI-USMC

Carnival fun-filled day for youth aboard Miramar

by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

PAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Corps Community Services Center sponsored a Spring Carnival April 8 at the Youth Sports Complex here.

Marines, Sailors, and their families enjoyed free rides, games, food and live entertainment. The Easter Bunny was also present to pose for photos with willing participants.

The day began with the opening of many rides and games, such as the 26-foot slide and the ferris wheel.

Shortly after, the children screamed with amazement as the Easter Bunny made his way through the crowd on his way to a small booth where the children could meet and have a photo taken with him. During the course of the event, a variety of fuzzy characters greeted the children as they buzzed around the carnival grounds.

On stage, the Youth Center's best showcased their talent by performing for a captivated audience. The Youth Center Dancers got down for the crowd, while the center's gymnasts flipped and skipped around the stage. Just when you thought the entertainment was finished, the center's martial artists performed a well choreographed display of Tae Kwon Do maneuvers. But the stage performances didn't stop there.

A magic show and a performance by Spring Bunny and Aunt Sue kept the



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

audience smiling.

"My daughter loved the stage performances, particularly the Karate show. It's amazing watching all of the performers. They were all on the same page. Their timing was terrific," Karen McDonald, mother of 5-year-old Lisa and San Diego resident, said. However, the rides and games weren't the only things putting smiles on faces.

"Everything here is absolutely great. But the thing I like the best is it's all free. It's nice to be able to bring the kids out here for a good time and not have to worry about what I spend," said Robert J. Perez, a San Diego resident and father of 9-year-old Robert Jr. and 4-year-old Christopher.

For those who missed out on the Spring fun and games, there's always next year. To find out about the next Spring carnival or upcoming MCCS events, call 577-6365.

"It's nice to be able to bring the kids out here for a good time and not have to worry about what I spend."

-Robert J. Perez, San Diego resident and father

(Top) A Tae Kwon Do demonstration was one of the appeals of the carnival for children and parents at the Spring Carnival April 8 at the Youth Sports Complex. The annual carnival was sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services Center. (Right) Cartoon characters abounded during the festivities to greet the children. Rides brought out the gleeful smiles and the various booths offered such fun as face painting, gold-fish fishing and more.

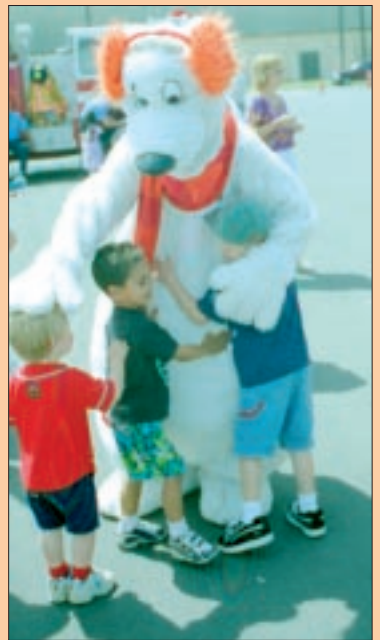


photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

Increase in health-care benefits for military pushed in congress

by Stephen Green

Reprinted with permission, Copley News Service

WASHINGTON — Prodded by recruiting problems and election-year politics, Congress appears poised to boost health-care benefits for the military.

Popular bipartisan bills in the House and Senate would cut red tape and reduce out-of-pocket costs to active-duty families. They also would begin reinstating free, lifetime medical care once offered to all veterans retiring after full, 20-year careers.

“Last year we enacted compensation increases,” said Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee. “This year should be the year of health care.”

While members of Congress who deal with military issues predict that some sort of legislation will pass this year, how far it will go is open to debate, mainly because of cost factors.

The cost of the proposed new benefits could amount to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Defense Secretary William Cohen said improving medical benefits would be another step in competing with private industry in recruiting and in persuading service members to stay in uniform, just as increasing pay and benefits was last year.

One measure expected to receive approval would eliminate co-payments to Tricare, the managed-care-type program serving active-duty families. Another measure would ensure that active-duty families

residing far from military medical facilities could visit civilian health-care providers.

Pentagon officials said the quality of care under Tricare is not an issue, but there are widespread complaints about difficulties in obtaining appointments and about late payment of benefits. President Clinton, in his budget plan for next year, proposed some \$500 million to enhance health care for active-duty families. No money for improving military retirees’ medical benefits was included in the president’s budget proposal. But national veterans’ organizations have joined forces in lobbying Congress, where they have received a warm reception in this election year.

“We’re losing World War II veterans every day, and many of them are not getting the care they were promised,” declared Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham, R-Escondido, a member of the House military appropriations subcommittee.

Military retirees and their dependents received health care on the same basis as active-duty families until 1956, when Congress decreed that they could use only military medical facilities when space and personnel were available. For retirees in San Diego and other areas with military installations, this raised no obstacles until the end of the Cold War saw base closures and the military shrinking by a third.

As a result, the vast majority of the approximately 1.8 million retirees now use Tricare until reaching age 65, when they must enroll in Medicare.

Clubbing for cash

(Left) Staff Sgt. John C. Sweredoski, Substance Abuse Counseling officer, and (Right) Robert Knight, a MCAS Miramar golf pro, presents Staff Sgt. Keith Williams, a Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational training group instructor, with an award for the longest drive during the 10th Annual Golf Tournament April 7.



photo by Lance Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

Fond memories mix with grief in aftermath of tragedy

Martinez,

continued from page 1

squadron's "point man" during the Assault Support Tactics portion of the fateful Non-combatant Evacuation Operation. It was an important mission, not only for the Osprey pilots who were being evaluated on the aircraft's mission effectiveness, but also for Martinez, who was one of a very few MWCS-38 Marines qualified to operate new communications equipment used during the exercise. Hilton described Martinez as "a dynamic personality who had a love for life." Martinez, who was scheduled to receive orders to Marine Security Guard school this summer, was "an honorable man and a tremendous corporal who ac-

complished tremendous things." Although the unit is mourning the loss of a rising star, Hilton believes his death offers important lessons for Marines left behind.

"It has been a difficult situation to go through, but if we ever find ourselves in combat, chances are we will experience death," stated Hilton, who had never previously lost a Marine — either in training or in an operation — during his 19-year career. "Many of our guys are still the age that they feel immortal. Unfortunately, they now know the experience of grieving the loss of a close friend and continuing to accomplish the mission." Hilton, who has spoken with Martinez' father to offer condolences and support, said a memorial ceremony for the fallen Marine is currently being scheduled.



Cpl. Eric J. Martinez, a field radio operator assigned to Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, was one of the 19 Marines killed during Saturday's MV-22 Osprey mishap. Martinez was scheduled to receive orders to Marine Security Guard school this summer.

photo courtesy of MWCS-38

Osprey,

continued from page 1

Commandant of the Marine Corps, expressed his condolences to the crew's family members. "The Marine Corps family grieves for the Marines we've lost in this tragedy and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families," he said.

Additionally, Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig praised the Marines' ultimate commitment to duty. "Evaluating new equipment and training for war, like war itself, puts life at risk. In peace and war, Marines accept that risk — it is a bond between us. In that spirit, we grieve today for our 19 lost Marines and embrace their families."

According to a Headquarters, Marine Corps press release, four MV, or "Marine Vertical" 22s were participating in an Operational Evaluation test phase at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., since October 1999.

The Osprey is not a test or experimental aircraft: It is a full-scale development aircraft undergoing evaluation to determine its operational suitability to the Corps' mission.

At the time of the incident, the crew was conducting a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation, employing night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared radar to enhance its night operational effectiveness.

The Corps' top aviation official, Lt. Gen. Fred McCorkle, deputy chief of staff for Aviation, stated during a Pentagon news conference Tuesday that the evaluation Ospreys would remain active unless a major design flaw is discovered during the investigation. Operations of the tilt-rotor aircraft have been temporarily halted out of respect for the family members of the Marines killed in the incident.

"We're looking at anything that caused the accident, whether it's material, whether it's mechanical, or whether it was human factors-related," stated Lt. Gen. McCorkle.

The four Ospreys involved in the evaluation completed more than 800 flight hours since the program's inception, logging nearly 140 flight hours in March.

The pilots were both experienced veterans and members of Marine Helicopter Squadron 1, which provides executive transportation for the president of the United States. One pilot had logged nearly 3,800 hours and the other accumulated more than 2,100 hours. Both pilots were approaching 100 hours of flight time in the Osprey.

A memorial service in remembrance of the Marines who died in Saturday's MV-22 Osprey mishap is scheduled for Monday at 2 p.m. The memorial ceremony will be held at the 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment parade deck and is open only to the families and Marines of 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. The service is not open to the public.

Parent and Teen Drug Abuse Forum Planned

Parents, do you have any idea what your teen (or pre-teen) faces at school every day? Do you know what drugs are available on campus? What they look like? How they're used? How much they cost? How would you know if your child were using illegal drugs? How would you help...if they asked?

Attend an informal but informative Drug Abuse Prevention Forum, Wednesday. The evening will include original skits by Miramar teens, presentations, a short video, guest speakers who've "been there," and conversation time with pizza and soft drinks available. It's at the Miramar Teen Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Informational flyers will be distributed throughout Base Housing and other areas, or call MCCS at 577-4099 or the Youth Center at 577-4136. Early registration will ensure pizza for all.

For specific questions on drug-related topics, contact Mary Ann Schmitt at 577-7285 or Dr. Nate Lowe at 577-4411.

Who Is Eligible for TRICARE?

What are TRICARE Options? Do you know your TRICARE benefits? What's covered — and what's not? How does TRICARE enrollment work? You can get the answers to these and many other TRICARE questions at a free TRICARE Basic Course, 8 a.m. to day at the MAG-11/16 Conference Room, Building 8477.

Who should attend? Commanding officers, sergeants major, first sergeants, admin officers, chiefs, corpsmen, Key Volunteers, active duty personnel and spouses.

Only 100 seats are available, so sign up

now! Call 577-6931 to register.

Swing into Spring

Bobby Law will host "Swing into Spring" at Area 51—Saturday at the E-club. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the fun starts at 8:30 p.m. There's a \$5 cover. Call 577-4820 for details. (Don't forget — *every* Friday night you can dance to hip-hop, reggae, R&B and Miami bass with DJ T-Bone and MC Steve LUV. Showtime is 8 p.m.)

Children's Storytime

Designed for preschoolers and ages 5 and up, but open to extended family, friends, and neighbors, too. MCCS Library Weekly Storytime presents a mix of timeless and new stories, plus songs, finger plays, flannel board activities and a craft. It happens every Monday at 10 a.m. Sessions generally last from 45 minutes to an hour. The Library is in Building 5305. For more information call 577-1261.

Wake Up and Work Out!

The Semper Fit Fitness & Sports Center (Main Gym) now opens at 4:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. The Monday-Wednesday-Friday early group exercise classes now begin at 5:30 a.m. instead of 5:45 a.m.

Get Together to Get in Shape

Group exercise classes include Cardio-Kickboxing, Muscle Challenge, Super Step, Cardio Challenge, Senior Fit, Ab Blaster, Yoga, Kid Fit, Butts & Gutts, Cardio Interval and Aero-Sculpt. All aerobics classes are free. Yoga classes are \$5 per class or \$30 for eight classes. For a complete class schedule

and facility hours, call 577-4129.

Safe at Home Tips

Home is the place where children feel protected and secure. Yet home is the place where accidental injuries often occur. Children under the age of 12 generally need adult supervision for all but short periods of time.

Tip: Agree on ground rules when you are not at home. What are the rules on cooking alone? Leaving the house? Having friends over when you're not there? **Tip:** Leave phone numbers posted prominently (fire, police, neighbors, relatives and your work phone).

They've Got Just the Ticket!

What do animal parks, amusement parks, harbor cruises, baseball, movies, museums, dinner theaters and discounted tickets have in common? The Entertainment Ticket Office! Call them at 577-4141/26 or visit Building 2524 to pick up the current Price Information brochure. They're open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays.

A Class Act

The Youth and Teen center has classes in China Painting (adults), Gymnastics, Hip Hop Dance, Piano, Tae Kwon Do, Tap & Jazz (6 and older), Tap & Ballet (3-1/2 to 6) and Tennis. Call 577-4136 to learn more. They're in Building 2247.

Ready on the Firing Range!

The new MCCS Recreational Pistol Range is open! The range, located at Range "B" in East Miramar, is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The cost is \$4 per person per day. Handguns in several sizes are available for rental for just \$3 per day; targets and ammunition are available for sale. The range is open to authorized MCCS patrons over the age of 12; persons ages 12 – 17 must be supervised by a parent of legal guardian. See the flyer, or call for details: 577-4099 Monday through Friday, or 577-1788 on Saturday and Sunday.



Free MCCS Movies

- Today:** *Scream 3 (R)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Pitch Black (R)*, 8:45 p.m.
- Saturday:** *The Tigger Movie (G)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Hanging Up (PG-13)*, 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday:** *The Tigger Movie (G)*, 1 p.m.; *Hanging Up (PG-13)*, 8:30 p.m.
- Monday/Tuesday:** closed
- Wednesday:** *The Cider House Rules (PG-13)*, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday:** *Toy Story 2 (G)*, 2 p.m.

For more information, call 577-4143

Shiplife,
continued from page 2

the lack of space and arguing about cleanup as “shipmates” cleanliness habits (or lack of) become all too obvious builds strange bonds between everyone.

However, the art of storytelling of past miseries can put anyone’s father’s tales of “walking 10-miles, barefoot in the snow to get to school,” to shame.

Staff Sgt. Anthony C. Siciliano, data systems chief of the command element, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, gave one such example to a group of Marines who had a bit of time to kill.

“Early last year off the coast of Eritrea, near Ethiopia off the eastern coast of Africa we went 80 days without liberty,” started Siciliano. “You PT a lot, just to pass the time and you stop wearing your watch, because you get sick of looking a the time.”

According to Siciliano it doesn’t take long before other things become sickening.

“Everybody gets antsy and smart-mouthed eventually. But it’s not usually with the other guys on the ship, it’s with the guys you work with. [There’s always one guy] you work with all day and then he sleeps two feet away from you every night. Things that he said that seemed clever or funny 45 days ago, now make you want to rip his throat out!” said Siciliano, laughing.

One of the best ways to help alleviate this tension is e-mail. In fact, according to Siciliano e-mail and the Internet equals salvation on a ship.

“I couldn’t imagine what it was like before. E-mail is our one touch with the outside world,” said Siciliano.

“I heard all the stories before I got on the ship, and actually being on float was a lot different than I thought. I found a lot of stuff to keep myself busy. [But most importantly] I really felt like I was on the tip of the spear.” He then went on to describe real life humanitarian missions on the high seas that he was able to be a part of and exotic locations he has been given the opportunity to see.

Coming back home is a great blend of the best and worst. Waiting all day to finally pull in and it takes hours to finally tie off. But cruising back in to homeport is something truly special. Passerby boats wave and cheer, and groups of service members gather on the upperdecks to watch and wave. Everyone expectant and yet knowing home is still hours away.

Pulling up to dock, the sight that makes every service member feel special is the sight of someone they know waiting for them below. Kisses, hugs and greetings from loved ones who stayed at home are beautiful to more than just the service member receiving them. It may be in fact more important than some loved ones realize.

While waiting for the courtesy van to show up and take him to his parked car, one sailor said, in a sad little way, “In the five years I have been in the Navy, no one has ever been waiting for me when I pulled in.” And then he got up, said, “goodbye,” and jumped on the van.

Sgt. Maj. Corner,
continued from page 4

that has anything at all to do with fixing this problem is totally committed to its resolution.

On April 4, the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps (Plans, Policies and Operations) directed the establishment of a Correctional Custody Unit (CCU) aboard MCB Camp Pendleton. CC is the most serious deprivation of liberty authorized as a punishment under the UCMJ, Article 15. CC in the Marine Corps attempts to correct negative attitudes and motivations of junior enlisted personnel through a regimen of hard work, intensive counseling, and physical training conducted in a strict, military environment. No projection date has been established yet, but I would say that within 6 months it should be up and running.

STDs,
continued from page 4

Hospital’s preventive medicine department for a schedule of classes held there.

“Here we don’t have classes. We instruct people individually on STD prevention, sadly that’s usually after they’ve contracted one,” Blakesley said.

All people inquiring about STDs with the Branch Medical Clinic or any other medical facility, for that matter, has no need to worry, everything is confidential. It’s just between you and your doctor.

Runners,
continued from page 1

rine Corps friends to the finish, he proposed a challenge for the next Marine Corps Marathon. The U.S. Marine Team and the British Royal Navy/Marines Team was formed and a tradition was born.

Interested Marine runners should submit their résumés with a list of dates, places and finishing times of 10k, 10 milers, half-marathons or marathons run in the past two years. Résumés must have command endorsement. Marines will be available from May 22 - 31. Please send résumés to Race Director, Mr. Rick Nealis, Marine Corps Marathon, P.O. Box 188 Quantico, Va. 22134 or by e-mail at nealisrg@nt.quantico.usmc.mil. All résumés must be received by Saturday. Selected team members will be notified by naval message.



**MAKE TRACKS
TO OUR
WEBSITE AT:
www.miramar.usmc.mil**